

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Appln. No. 09/942,992

Attorney Docket No. Q66040

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): ~~A rubber composition obtained by compounding~~ A heavy duty pneumatic tire having a tread wherein the rubber composition constituting the tread is a rubber composition obtained by compounding (A) a rubber component comprising 15 to 55% by weight of (i) a modified styrene-butadiene copolymer rubber which is obtained by a solution polymerization and has a tin atom introduced into its molecular chain, 45 to 85% by weight of (ii) at least one rubber selected from natural rubber and synthetic isoprene rubbers, and (B) a hydrazide compound.

2. (currently amended): ~~A rubber composition~~ heavy duty pneumatic tire according to Claim 1, wherein component (A) comprises 15 to 55% by weight of component (i) and 85 to 45% by weight of component (ii).

3. (currently amended): ~~A rubber composition~~ heavy duty pneumatic tire according to Claim 1, wherein the modified styrene-butadiene copolymer rubber of component (i) of component (A) is obtained by modifying a styrene-butadiene copolymer which is obtained by a solution polymerization using a lithium compound as an initiator with a tin compound.

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4. (currently amended): A ~~rubber composition~~ heavy duty pneumatic tire according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrazide compound of component (B) is at least one compound selected from naphthoic acid hydrazides and salicylic acid hydrazides.

5. (currently amended): A ~~rubber composition~~ heavy duty pneumatic tire according to Claim 1, wherein 0.05 to 5 parts by weight of component (B) per 100 parts by weight of component (A) is compounded.

6. (currently amended): A ~~rubber composition~~ heavy duty pneumatic tire according to of Claim 1, wherein 20 to 70 parts by weight of (C) carbon black per 100 parts by weight of component (A) is further compounded.

7. (canceled).

8. (new): A heavy duty pneumatic tire having a tread according to Claim 4, wherein the hydrazide compound is at least one selected from the member consisting of 2-hydroxy-N'-(1-methylethylidene)-3-naphthoic acid hydrazide, 2-hydroxy-N'-(1-methylpropylidene)-3-naphthoic acid hydrazide, 2-hydroxy-N'-(1-methylbutylidene)-3-naphthoic acid hydrazide, 2-hydroxy-N'-(1,3-dimethylbutylidene)-3-naphthoic acid hydrazide, 2-hydroxy-N'-(2,6-dimethyl-4-heptylidene)-3-naphthoic acid hydrazide, N'-(1-methylethylidene)-salicylic acid hydrazide, N'-(1-methylpropylidene)-salicylic acid hydrazide, N'-(1-methylbutylidene)-salicylic acid

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hydrazide, N'-(1,3-dimethylbutylidene)-salicylic acid hydrazide and N'-(2,6-dimethyl-4-heptylidene)-salicylic acid hydrazide.